INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/IB2004/051451

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G11B7/0045 G11B7/013 G11B7/24 G11B7/24 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G11B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data, COMPENDEX C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Category ° 1,3 US 5 776 656 A (SHINKAI ET AL) X 7 July 1998 (1998-07-07) claim 1; example 1 EP 0 676 751 A (MITSUI TOATSU CHEMICALS, 1,2 X INCORPORATED; MITSUI CHEMICALS, INC) 11 October 1995 (1995-10-11) claims 1,2,4 1-3 PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN Α vol. 1996, no. 08, 30 August 1996 (1996-08-30) & JP 08 111034 A (MITSUI TOATSU CHEM INC), 30 April 1996 (1996-04-30) abstract Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means in the art. *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 17/02/2005 7 February 2005 **Authorized officer** Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Stabel, A Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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